

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 040429

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO GOV PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFORPN

SUBJECT:U.S. PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ACTIVITIES REPORT

FOR MINISTER BELL AND GENERAL DOLVIN.

I.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 8 FROM THE DEPARTMENT APPLICABLE TO THE
FEBRUARY 1976 NEGOTIATING ROUND IN PANAMA, DESPATCHED FROM
ARA/PAN AT 5:30 PM FEBRUARY 19.

II. BRIEFING ITEMS

A. CONGRESSIONAL BACKGROUND PAPER -- WE HAVE RECEIVED COPY
OF FEBRUARY 10 LETTER FROM SENATOR MCGEE TO THE SECRETARY
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT'S COOPERATION WITH LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE IN PREPARATION OF A
BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON THE PANAMA CANAL AND THE US RELATIONS
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PAGE 02 STATE 040429

WITH PANAMA. IN THE LAST FEW YEARS THE COMMITTEE HAS PUB-
LISHED SIMILAR DOCUMENTS ON EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AS WYROUGH AWARE, DOCKERY, STAFF MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, HAD BROACHED QUESTION OF DEPARTMENT'S COOPERATION WITH HOWARD IN EARLY JANUARY.

B. SAN JOSE MEETING -- AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD FROM THE EMBASSY, IT HAS NOT PROVED POSSIBLE FOR COSTA RICA TO ARRANGE FOR A MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT TO COINCIDE WITH THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY IN SAN JOSE. WHILE THE SITUATION AT THIS WRITING IS SOMEWHAT FLUID, IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE SAN JOSE LUNCHEON WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL.

C. MEAT EXPORTS -- A PAPER IS NOW BEING PREPARED FOR THE SECRETARY TO USE IN SAN JOSE. (FYI ONLY. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, ONE OF THE TALKING POINTS WILL NOTE THAT IN NEGOTIATING VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WE INTEND TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE FOR REGIONAL REALLOCATION, I.E., WITHIN CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA, OF SHORTFALLS. END FYI ONLY).

D. BOSTON/PANAMA -- TALKED WITH BILONICK TODAY ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH HELLER. AFTER AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ REVILLA RETURNS, BILONICK PLANS TO GO TO PANAMA ON A FACT FINDING MISSION ABOUT THE ALLEDGED EXPROPRIATION. BILONICK SEEMS TO BE GOING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM IN A SERIOUS AND LOGICAL WAY AND WE VIEW HIS INVOLVEMENT AS A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW OF AMBASSADOR BUNKER -- MARILYN BERGER, NOW OF NBC AND FORMERLY OF WASHINGTON POST, CALLED FOR UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER TALKING TO FIRFER, SHE DECIDED THAT THERE WAS NO REAL STORY AT THIS TIME, I.E., SECRETARY'S TRIP NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, SHE REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR BUNKER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS RETURN. ACTION ON WHETHER AMBASSADOR WISHES TO SEE HER OR NOT, AND IF SO WHEN, NOT
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PAGE 03 STATE 040429

URGENT AND CAN BE TAKEN UP WHEN NEGOTIATING TEAM RETURNS.
INGERSOLL

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